

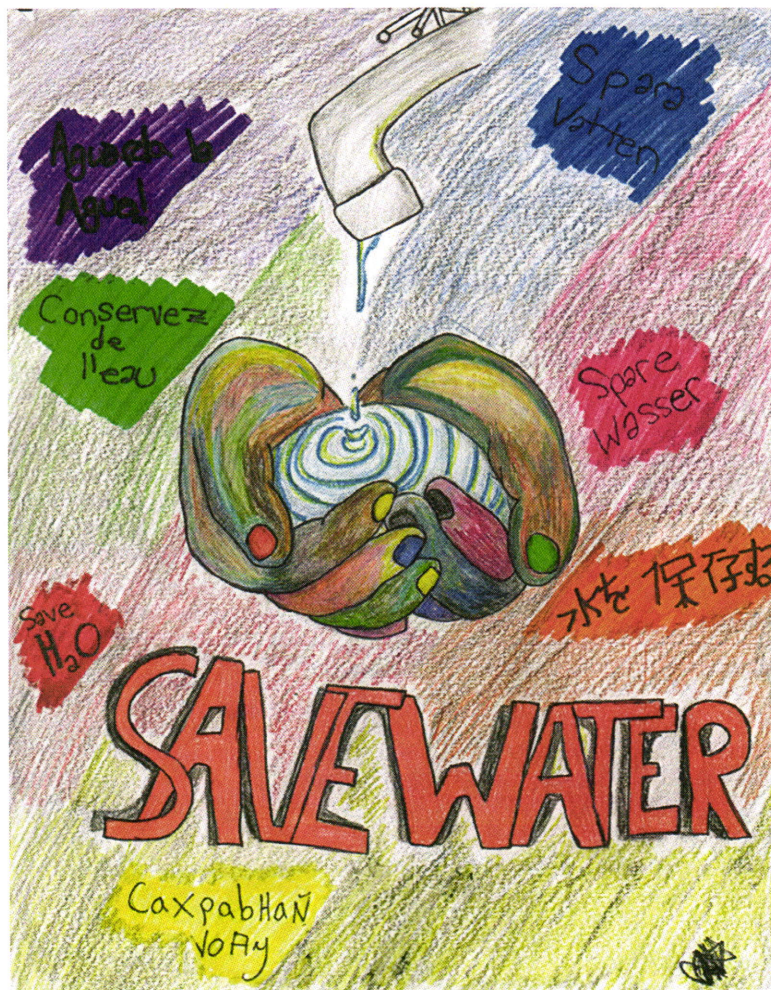


## TMWA Board Meeting

Thursday, July 7, 2011

### Press Clippings

May 16, 2011 – June 28, 2011



Katherine Horton (Archie Clayton Middle School)  
2010 Poster Art Contest – Honorable Mention, Grades 7-8

## Independence Lake plan to provide rental boats only

JUNE, 29 2011  
BY BRUCE AJARI  
GONE FISHIN'

The Independence Lake summer recreational plan was released recently after quite a bit of public input. In May of 2010, the Nature Conservancy purchased 2,325 acres of land around the lake owned by Nevada Energy for \$15 million.

The lake bottom is owned by the State of California, and Truckee Meadows Water Authority owns 17,000 acre-feet of the lake's water as drought storage.

The importance of this lake lies in the fact that it holds the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT). It is one of only two lakes that has a self-sustaining population of this threatened species.

A vocal group formed the Friends of Independence Lake, which opposed the restrictions on boating that the new owners placed upon the lake. Boats were not allowed to be launched lakeside. To launch a boat, it required quite a portage to get to the lake. As a result, some of the older anglers felt excluded.

The summary of the new plan is a compromise of sorts. This was gathered off of the Nature Conservancy website. First, it plans to provide limited boating opportunities while protecting the lake from invasive species.

A fleet of 14-foot aluminum motorboats, kayaks and fishing pontoons will be available for rent provided by the Nature Conservancy and their partner, the Tahoe Donner Land Trust. No outside boats will be allowed. These motorboats will be available for rent every other week to allow periods of quiet boating only. A limited number of walk-in campsites will also be available under this plan.

All in all, this plan appears to provide the protection from aquatic invasive species to protect the lake and its native fish, the LCT.

Given the fact that quagga mussels have been reported by the Nevada Department of Wildlife at nearby Lahontan and Rye Patch reservoirs, it seems only prudent to take extra measures in keeping these invasive species out of this watershed.

The compromise is a good one from the standpoint of protection of the lake and the threatened LCT. Boaters and other anglers will undoubtedly not like the fact that they cannot bring their own watercraft with them.

While the rental watercraft offers them the option of using the lake, the cost of these rentals may be prohibitive for some. Obviously, not all will be pleased.

However, in the long run, protection of the lake should be the most important factor. This seems to be a fair compromise given the elevated risk of threats from aquatic invasive species.

— Bruce Ajari is a Truckee resident and regular fishing columnist for the Bonanza and other area newspapers.

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<http://www.tahoebonanza.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110630/SPORTS/110629933/1061&ParentProfile=1050&template=printart>

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## **Tour award-winning landscapes on Saturday**

06.24.11 - 12:00 am

RENO — With the weather warming, now is the time to start planning your water-efficient landscape projects.

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) offers the unique opportunity to tour residential landscapes on Saturday. Visit three homes that won last year's Landscape Awards, hear how residents transformed their yards and learn proper tree care techniques at each stop. The free half-day tour will begin at the new Hug High Garden at 8:30 a.m. RSVP by emailing [conservation@tmwa.net](mailto:conservation@tmwa.net), or calling 834-8005.

Attending the Landscape Awards Tour is also a good way to start your Water-Efficient Landscape Awards proposal. This year the awards will recognize customers who plan to install or retrofit their landscapes (or a portion of them) with water-efficient tools and techniques. Entry forms are due by Aug. 5. Attend one of two upcoming workshops on the xeriscape principals in order to complete your proposal or to learn more about water-efficient landscaping. The three-hour workshop is being held at 9 a.m. on July 9 and at 1 p.m. on July 16 at the River School. RSVP by contacting TMWA.

For more information, complete contest rules and to enter online, visit [www.tmwalandscapguide.com](http://www.tmwalandscapguide.com) or call 829-2810.

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## **Reduce landfill with iRefill Program**

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06.23.11 - 12:00 am

RENO — The Washoe County Health District and Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) have made it easier than ever to reduce the number of plastic bottles that go into landfills by launching a new interactive website [www.iRefill.org](http://www.iRefill.org).

The new site informs people about the waste created by single-use water bottles and encourages everyone to use tap water and reusable water bottles. iRefill supporters now can go online to take the iRefill Pledge to use reusable water bottles and reduce landfill waste. And, once an individual or business submits the pledge form, their names will be added onto the site.

More than 60 million single-use plastic bottles are used in the United States every day. The largest percentage of these ends up in landfills. The solution to this massive disposal problem is to use refillable steel, glass or BPA-free plastic bottles. The [iRefill.org](http://www.iRefill.org) website has information on what kinds of bottles are safest to reuse and how to keep bottles clean and sanitized. Information about drinking water in the Truckee Meadows and about TMWA's water quality also is at [iRefill.org](http://www.iRefill.org).

For more information on Environmental Health Services at the Washoe County Health District, visit [www.washoecounty.us/health/ehs/index/php](http://www.washoecounty.us/health/ehs/index/php), or call 328-2434. For more information on how to help reduce landfill waste, visit [www.iRefill.org](http://www.iRefill.org).

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## TMWA offers residential landscape tour

7:30 PM, Jun. 23, 2011|

For green thumbs, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority is offering a residential landscape tour on how to start planning water efficient landscape projects.

It is at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the Hug High Garden at Hug High School.

The tour will visit three homes that won last year's Landscape Awards.

Participants can receive tips on water efficiency and better prepare themselves for the 2011 Water-Efficient Landscape Awards.

Submissions for awards are due Aug. 5.

Details: 775-834-8005 to RSVP in advance.

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

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# Tour award winning landscapes with TMWA on Saturday, June 25

June 21, 2011  
By [ThisIsReno](#)



### *SUBMITTED NEWS RELEASE*

With the weather warming, now is the time to start planning your water-efficient landscape projects. Truckee Meadows Water Authority offers the unique opportunity to tour residential landscapes on Saturday, June 25. Visit three homes that won last year's Landscape Awards, hear how residents transformed their yards and learn proper tree care techniques at each stop. The free half-day tour will begin at the new Hug High Garden at 8:30 a.m. RSVP by emailing [conservation@tmwa.net](mailto:conservation@tmwa.net) or calling (775) 834-8005.

Attending the Landscape Awards Tour is also a good way to start your Water-Efficient Landscape Awards proposal. This year the awards will recognize customers who plan to install or retrofit their landscapes (or a portion of them) with water-efficient tools and techniques. Entries are due by Friday, Aug. 5. Attend one of two upcoming workshops on the xeriscape principals in order to complete your proposal or to learn more about water-efficient landscaping. The 3-hour workshop is being held Saturday, July 9 at 9 a.m. and Saturday, July 16 at 1 p.m. at the River School. Please RSVP by contacting TMWA.

**The deadline to enter the Water-Efficient Landscape Awards is Friday, Aug. 5, 2011.** For more information, complete contest rules and to enter online, visit [www.tmwalandscapguide.com](http://www.tmwalandscapguide.com) or call (775) 829-2810.

*Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is a not-for-profit water utility, overseen by elected officials from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County. TMWA employs a highly skilled team who ensure the treatment, delivery and availability of high-quality drinking water around the clock for more than 330,000 residents of the Truckee Meadows.*

### **You may also like:**

- [TMWA offers free landscape awards tour](#)
- [Water-Efficient Landscape Awards spruced up for 2011](#)
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## Progress made against relentless beavers along Truckee River banks

Written by

Susan Voyles

5:48 PM, Jun. 22, 2011|

Every week day since December, a Washoe County sheriff's community service crew has worked the banks of the Truckee River, wrapping trees with chicken wire to protect them from beavers, cleaning up homeless camps and picking up other debris.

Since December, they've wrapped 423 trees and removed 95 homeless camps, 1,058 large bags of garbage and 63 hazards such as rebar and pipe that present a danger to people, said Don Lawson, work supervisor.

But once a Truckee River Fund grant for \$90,000 runs out in late July, the crew of six to eight members will be disbanded for a lack of a supervisor.

"We have been on beavers since December," Lawson said. "We got started when the river was coming up. There's still a lot of work to do. There's a lot of trees to be wrapped. We are hitting the worst

spots."

The Truckee River Fund is supported by customers of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, the area's biggest water company.

Mike Carrigan, TMWA board chairman, said he would encourage the sheriff's office to apply for another grant through the board's grant advisory committee. "I think it's money well spent," he said, after hearing the statistics.

A new law approved by the Nevada Legislature this spring also will make life easier for beavers.

It prohibits private trappers from working the Truckee River in Reno and Sparks. The exception is when the state Wildlife Department declares the beaver a threat to the river habitat. Then trappers can apply for special permits and work only those areas assigned, said Chris Healy, department spokesman.

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For much of the last decade, beavers have been eating their way through the cottonwoods that provide shade and cool the river for trout and provide cover for wildlife. Since riverkeeper John Champion died in 1997, efforts to wrap trees and trap beavers have fizzled.

But like painting the Golden Gate Bridge, work to protect the river from beavers should be continuous, said Don Vetter, a Truckee River Yacht Club board director.

Dawson said the crew has been kept busy with a large number donated rolls of chicken wire since a public appeal was made in January.

Then this week, the yacht club, a non-profit group that advocates for the river, donated \$4,000 to the sheriff's office to buy more chicken wire. At \$35 for a 50-foot roll, that will wrap a lot of trees.

The beavers are relentless.

On Wednesday morning, Aaron Keller, a state wildlife educator, pointed out the damage from the night before at Oxbow Nature Study area. Along a section of riverbank restored last fall, beavers had eaten one cottonwood sapling and chewed off the bottom half of another sapling, leaving the top half dangling in the air. Bark chips still floated on the water inside the chicken wire cage.

With the river running fast and scouring away dirt from the bank, the beavers swam under the cage to grab a bite.

Vetter said the trouble is beavers have no natural enemies and breed too fast. A female can produce two litters a year and some of the kits can become pregnant before leaving the lodge, Keller said.

After the Reno Gazette-Journal pointed out the depredation last winter, the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada put together volunteers to rewrap the trees in Idlewild Park. Trees have to be wrapped and rewrapped as they grow.

"It's our river. It makes this community what it is," Aaron Keller, Nevada Wildlife education coordinator.

Once the Truckee River Fund grant is gone, Dawson will shift to part-time work and be assigned others duties, said Mike Sherak, sheriff inmate work crew coordinator.

The yacht club received a \$5,500 grant from the Nevada Wildlife Record Book Foundation.

## DETAILS

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\* The Truckee River Yacht Club received a \$5,500 grant from the Nevada Wildlife Record Book Foundation and donated \$4,000 this week to the sheriff's office to buy chicken wire.

\* The club is saving \$1,000 for future river cleanup efforts involving volunteers.

\* The nonprofit group also is applying for other grants for the river and plans to have a website, <http://TruckeeRiver.org>, up next week on volunteering.

\* To donate chicken wire: Contact the Washoe County sheriff's community work program at 775-785-4239.

SOURCE: RGJ research

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**SPRUCE-UP**

**GET INSPIRED AND  
START PLANNING FOR THE**

# **WATER-EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE AWARDS 2011**

Tour award-winning water-efficient landscapes on Truckee Meadows Water Authority's **LANDSCAPE AWARDS TOUR & TREE CARE WORKSHOP** on Saturday, June 25. The tour will feature three of last year's winner's homes and participants will learn how the winners transformed their yards, all while saving water. The half-day tour will begin at the new High High Garden at 8:30 a.m. Call 834-8005 or email [conservation@tmwa.net](mailto:conservation@tmwa.net) to RSVP.

Presented by: **TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY** 

Win gift certificates from our generous sponsors to start your landscaping project:





This article was printed from the Green Guide section of the *Reno News & Review*, originally published June 16, 2011.

This article may be read online at:

<http://www.newsreview.com/reno/content?oid=2343648>

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Printed on 2011-06-17.

## Get wise

By Kat Kerlin

If you've ever looked at photos from previous Water-Efficient Landscape Award winners' properties and thought, "I can do better than that," now's your chance to prove it.

Truckee Meadows Water Authority holds the contest every year. (Full disclosure: RN&R is a sponsor this year.) It features homeowners and their water-wise landscapes. In the past, the awards have gone to people who've already created water-efficient yards. This year, it will highlight those with good proposals for doing so, and reward them with prizes that will help them pull it off.

TMWA is accepting proposals for resident's landscape projects now through Aug. 5. The projects must address xeriscape principles, including proper planning for water conservation, beauty and function; soil improvement; proper irrigation and water efficiency; appropriate plant selection and grouping of plants into zones with similar water needs; use of mulch; and maintenance.

First-, second- and third-place winners will receive gift certificates to local garden shops, landscapers and nurseries to help them implement their plans.

For inspiration, a Landscape Awards tour and tree care workshop that feature three of last year's winners will be held Saturday, June 25, beginning at Hug High School at 8:30 a.m. Then on two Saturdays in July, River School Farm will host xeriscape workshops at 9 a.m., on July 9, and at 1 p.m., on July 16. For more information, visit [tmh20.org](http://tmh20.org) and [tmwalandscapeguide.com](http://tmwalandscapeguide.com).



[print](#)

## **TMWA rewards water-efficient landscape plans**

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06.10.11 - 12:00 am

RENO — The Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and the Reno News & Review have announced the recently revised guidelines for the 2011 Water-Efficient Landscape Awards. This year the awards will recognize customers who plan to install or retrofit their landscapes (or a portion of them) with water-efficient tools and techniques. Proposals are due Aug. 5.

Entrants are asked to submit a proposal for their landscape project that addresses the seven xeriscape principles, on which TMWA's Water-Efficient Landscape Guide is based:

1. Proper planning and design for water conservation, beauty and functionality
2. Soil improvement
3. Use turf sensibly with proper irrigation and practical shapes or sizes, considering other alternatives to turf
4. Water-efficiency through proper irrigation methods
5. Selection of appropriate plants and grouping of plants into zones with similar water needs
6. Use of mulch to reduce evaporation
7. Maintenance

“These principles are intended to help our customers see they can have a landscape that is both beautiful and water-efficient,” said Lora Rose Richards, TMWA conservation and community outreach administrator. “We are excited to help homeowners get started with their landscape makeover projects with the Landscape Awards.”

Gift certificates to local garden shops, landscapers and nurseries will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners to assist with implementing landscape plans. Also, for the first time this year, a prize will be awarded for the “best edible garden project.”

TMWA, with Truckee Meadows Community Forestry Coalition and the River School Farm, offer several tools to help customers prepare their proposals. The first is the Landscape Awards Tour & Tree Care Workshop on June 25. The tour will feature three of last year's winning landscapes and participants will learn how the winners transformed their yards, all while saving water. The tour will

begin at the new Hug High Garden at Hug High School at 8:30 a.m. RSVP by emailing [conservation@tmwa.net](mailto:conservation@tmwa.net) or calling 834-8005.

On July 9 and 16, the Xeriscape Workshops with the River Farm School will teach the seven xeriscape principles and work through proposals. Attend one of the following free workshops at the River School Farm, located at 7777 White Fir St. in Reno, to prepare your plan and proposal. Call 834-8005 to RSVP.

Finally, people can consult the TMWA Landscape Guide, which is downloadable at [www.tmwandscapeguide.com](http://www.tmwandscapeguide.com). Do-it-yourselfers can walk through the seven xeriscape principles, including landscape design templates and a comprehensive plant search.

For tips on planting, watering and caring for trees in the Truckee Meadows, including a list of recommended trees, visit [www.communityforestry.org](http://www.communityforestry.org).

The deadline to enter the Water-Efficient Landscape Awards is Aug. 5. For more information, contest rules and to enter, visit [www.tmwandscapeguide.com](http://www.tmwandscapeguide.com) or call 829-2810.

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# Water-Efficient Landscape Awards spruced up for 2011

By [ThisIsReno](#)



*SUBMITTED NEWS RELEASE*

### ***TMWA rewards water-efficient landscape planning***

As residents plan for making their lawns and landscapes more water-efficient, [Truckee Meadows Water Authority](#) (TMWA) and the Reno News & Review announce the recently revised guidelines for the 2011 [Water-Efficient Landscape Awards](#). This year the awards will recognize customers who plan to install or retrofit their landscapes (or a portion of them) with water-efficient tools and techniques. Proposals are due Friday, Aug. 5.

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- 6) Use of mulch to reduce evaporation
- 7) Maintenance

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Garden Shop Nursery, Moana Nursery, Reno Lawn & Landscape, Truckee Meadows Community Forestry Coalition and Western Turf & Hardscapes.

TMWA, with [Truckee Meadows Community Forestry Coalition](#) and the [River School Farm](#), offer the following tools to help customers prepare their proposals:

- **Landscape Awards Tour & Tree Care Workshop – Saturday, June 25**

The tour will feature three of last year's winning landscapes and participants will learn how the winners transformed their yards, all while saving water. The tour will begin at the new Hug High Garden at Hug High School at 8:30 a.m. RSVP by emailing [conservation@tmwa.net](mailto:conservation@tmwa.net) or calling (775) 834-8005.

- **Xeriscape Workshops with the River Farm School – Saturdays, July 9 and 16**

Learn about the seven xeriscape principles and work through your proposal. Attend one of the following **free** workshops at the River School Farm (7777 White Fir St. in Reno) to prepare your plan and proposal. Call 775-834-8005 to RSVP.

- Saturday, July 9 at 9 a.m. OR

- Saturday, July 16 at 1 p.m.

- **TMWA Landscape Guide**

At [www.tmwalandscapguide.com](http://www.tmwalandscapguide.com), do-it-yourselfers can walk through the seven xeriscape principles, including landscape design templates and a comprehensive plant search.

- **Truckee Meadows Community Forestry Coalition**

Visit [www.communityforestry.org](http://www.communityforestry.org) for tips on planting, watering and caring for trees in the Truckee Meadows, including a list of recommended trees.

**The deadline to enter the Water-Efficient Landscape Awards is Friday, Aug. 5, 2011.** For more information, complete contest rules and to enter online, visit [www.tmwalandscapguide.com](http://www.tmwalandscapguide.com) or call (775) 829-2810.

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### You may also like:

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## Water Restriction for Truckee Meadows in Place

Posted: Jun 14, 2011 4:08 PM PDT

Updated: Jun 14, 2011 4:13 PM PDT

*Erin Breen*  
Channel 2 News

Summer weather is upon us and water restrictions are in place. Which means it's time for you to check your system out and make sure it's watering properly.

"That's the first thing you need to do," says Lora Richards who is in charge of conservation education for TMWA.

"You need to make sure you don't have leaks so you don't get an unusually high water bill."

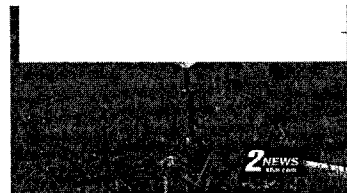
Last year TMWA expanded its program by allowing homeowners to water three days a week instead of two. It was a huge success because it allowed everyone a little more flexibility with their watering schedule.

"We've gotten a lot of good feedback on that," Richards says. "People get to water on more days without actually using more water."

The snow pack in the mountains is what we depend on to get us through the summer.

"We live in a high desert with a limited amount of precipitation and we have to save it so we have it tomorrow," Richards says.

If your address ends with an even number you water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.



If your address ends in an odd number you water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

And if you need tips on conservation minded landscaping check out [www.tmwlandscapeguide.com](http://www.tmwlandscapeguide.com)



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## Reno / Tahoe

By Standley White, About.com Guide

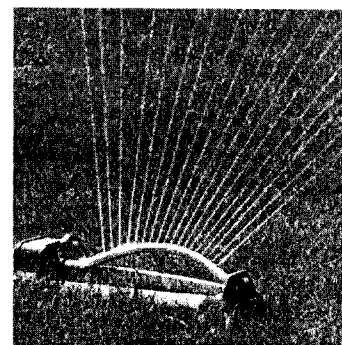
Reno's abundant spring rain will eventually stop and you'll actually have to water your yard and landscaping on a regular basis. To ensure an adequate supply of water, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) enforces a system called assigned-day watering<sup>1</sup> that gives everyone a chance to keep their lawns, yards, and commercial properties green during the dry summer months.

This year, nature has been good to us with a snowy, wet winter and spring that ensures an abundant flow down the Truckee River through the summer. Other years, we must tighten the spigot and deal with the fact that we do indeed live in an arid place. My series of water articles<sup>2</sup> deals with many of these issues. As the hot summer approaches, it is good to learn more about this vital resource so we can all use it wisely.

If you have yard projects lined up and need plants and advice about landscaping in the Truckee Meadows, we've got some excellent nurseries and garden centers<sup>3</sup> where you can get what you need for successfully growing things in the Reno climate. #about

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*Assigned-day watering in Reno, Nevada.*

*Photo © Stan White*

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## Kid's science fair project implemented by local ballpark

By Nadine Bells | Good News – Tue, 7 Jun, 2011

Nine-year-old Mason Perez is being hailed a conservation hero.

The Reno, Nevada, boy's science fair project from two years ago is now saving the city thousands of gallons of water.

Mason proposed a simple water-saving solution: reduce water pressure.

His hypothesis originated in the Reno Aces' ballpark's restroom. The youngster, then 7, found that the water pressure from the faucet hurt his hands, so he turned down the tap. Reduced pressure seemed just as effective at washing up.

For his science-fair project, he tested his theory with a half-gallon bucket and a stop watch. He compared how much water filled the bucket when valves were half open versus when they were fully open in the same time period. After nine tests, at three different houses, he found that he was saving 4 to 23 per cent in water use.

He then did the tests at three businesses, including at the ballpark restroom that inspired the project. Again, he saw savings of 6 to 25 per cent.

The project won the boy first place at the science fair.

Mason and his mother then proposed the idea of turning down the water pressure to the ballpark manager, Rick Parr. Despite initial skepticism, Parr obliged. Since 2009, he's seen a 20 per cent decrease in this park's utility bill.

The local water authority, TMWA, is now holding meetings to determine whether Mason's simple idea can be implemented in other parks, schools, casinos and private residences.

For Mason, reducing water pressure is about more than just saving a natural resource:

Mason told the Reno Gazette-Journal, "You know how teachers have kind of been losing their jobs? If we turned down every valve at every school we have in the Washoe County School District, with all that money we can save, we can save at least one teacher's job."

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# Reno boy hits on great idea to save water; businesses are paying attention



Written by  
Lenita Powers  
3:58 AM, Jun. 5, 2011

The science project of a 9-year-old Reno student has helped the Reno Aces ballpark save tens of thousands of gallons of water and could help homeowners cut their water bills as well.

Mason Perez's discovery of a simple way to conserve water began with a messy hot dog.

Mason was only 7 when he was at an Aces game with his mother, Stacy, in 2009.

After eating a hot dog, his hands and face were covered with ketchup and relish, so they went to one of the bathrooms to wash up.

"The water was coming out of the faucet so hard that I pulled my hands away," said Mason, a student at High Desert Montessori School. "I said, 'Mom, ouch, that's too hard.' So she leaned over and turned the valve down."

It was Mason's version of Sir Isaac Newton's observation of the falling apple. But instead of resulting in the theory of gravity, Mason theorized that reducing water pressure by turning the water supply valves to bathroom and kitchen sinks only halfway on could conserve water.

Mason's mother said construction workers leave those valves fully open to allow air and sediment to drain out, but businesses and homeowners don't think about partially closing them to save water.

Mason, who turns 10 in July, said people could save money on their water bills and help conserve a vital resource if they simply turn down those valves.

"If everyone would do this, we could save lots of water and it would be good for the environment," he said.

## Putting his theory to the test

That belief became the basis for his 2009

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school science project.

He tested his theory by using a half-gallon bucket and a stop watch, measuring how much water came out within a certain amount of time when the valves were wide open and when they were turned half off.

The tests were conducted three times each at his house, his grandmother's house and a friend's house, with a resulting savings in water use ranging from almost 4 percent to 23 percent.

He also went to three businesses: Reno Aces ballpark, Scheels sporting goods store and the Coconut Bowl at Wild Waters in Sparks. His tests showed savings from 6 to 25 percent.

Rick Parr, the Reno Aces general manager, said he was skeptical when Mason, accompanied by his mother, presented his idea to reduce water consumption at the ballpark two years ago.

"But after listening to him, I thought, 'This kid could be right,'" Parr said. "So I went down to the bathrooms myself to check out his theory. We didn't measure it, but you could tell right away that it worked.

"You don't have to be a scientist to see that you can save water," he said. "And it didn't make any difference in how well you could wash your hands. The only difference was you weren't wasting a lot of water in the process."

For the past two years, Mason's water-

saving idea has been implemented at the ballpark in the men's and women's restrooms and in the locker rooms.

### **An idea catches on**

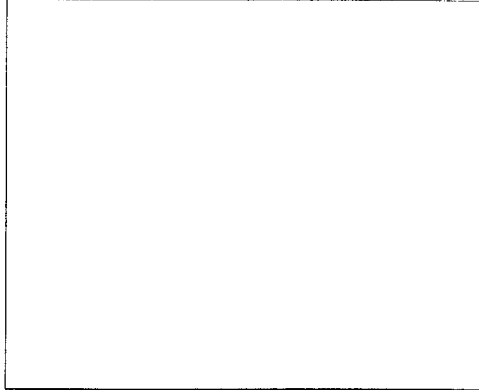
It has become part of a three-pronged effort to save water at the baseball stadium, said David Avila, the Aces' vice president of operations.

"The implementation of Mason's project opened our eyes to a simple and practical way to reduce our water use," Avila said.

Mason's idea, along with the installation of special monitors on the Aces' field irrigation system and slight changes in its stadium cleanup process, have resulted in an overall 20 percent cost savings in water usage since opening the ballpark, Avila said.

Parr said all businesses should consider following Mason's simple but effective way to save water.

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"If they all cut their water losses -- wow! That would be significant," Parr said. "We need to remember that water is a precious resource in our area."

Mason has also presented his conservation project to Michonne Ascuaga, chief executive officer of John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, and to the representatives of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

Mason said John Ascuaga said his idea might work for the casino and hotel sinks, but not the showers.

"He said people like their water pressure in their showers," Mason said.

Scott Estes, TMWA's director of engineering, said Mason gave his presentation to about a dozen members of the management team.

"We thought it was really impressive that this young man was interested in an issue that affects our region," he said. "Water conservation is very important to TMWA."

Estes said there is no way to determine how much money homeowners could save by implementing Mason's water-saving plan.

"It is going to be different for everyone because water pressure and water-use habits vary, but if someone is looking of a way to conserve, why not give it a try?" he said.

Although Mason's science project won the

competition in his class at school in 2009, he did not place at the regional science fair held later that year.

But he hopes it can win some teacher his or her job back.

Mason said he spoke with representatives at the Washoe County School District about turning down the valves in its schools.

"They want me to come back and talk to the plumbers and custodians and maintenance people," he said.

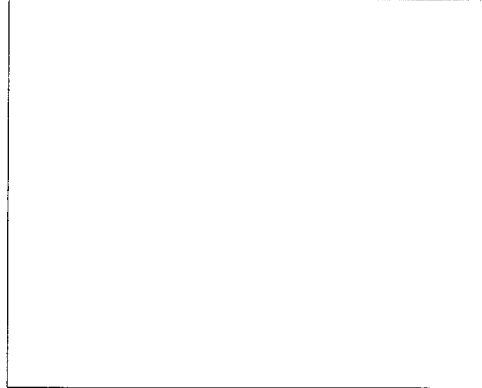
"You know how teachers have kind of been losing their jobs?" Mason said.

"If we turned down every valve at every school we have in the Washoe County School District, with all that money we can save, we can save at least one teacher's job."

### **Water conservation results**

By turning water-supply valves only halfway on

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Under bathroom and kitchen sinks at businesses and homes, 9-year-old Mason Perez of Reno found the following savings in water use resulted:

- Aces Ballpark: 19.7 percent
- Scheels: 25.5 percent
- Coconut Bowl: 5.9 percent
- Mason's kitchen sink at home: 23.33 percent
- Mason's grandmother's sink: 6.54 percent
- Mason's friend's sink: 3.69 percent

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This article was printed from the Green Guide section of the *Reno News & Review*, originally published June 2, 2011.

This article may be read online at:

<http://www.newsreview.com/reno/content?oid=2207301>

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## Hug embraces garden

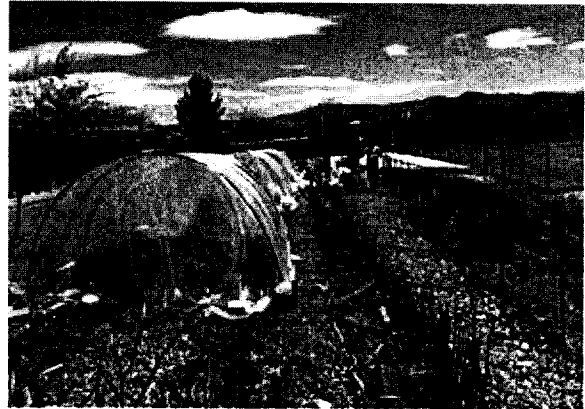
### School 'food forest' yields more than food

By Kat Kerlin

A year ago, the sloped plot of grass surrounding Hug High School's outdoor basketball court did little else than trickle wasted water onto the concrete slab below. Now, it's a place for the school's culinary students to learn to grow, cook and eat seasonal foods, for biology classes to learn about bioregions and water conservation, and ultimately, for Hug High students and parents to use as a community garden—all while saving water.

The Hug High garden was installed last year with funding from Truckee Meadows Water Authority's Landscape Retrofit Program. At the time, TMWA's Lora Richards was at a loss for ideas about how to create a water-wise landscape on the sloping property. She called on landscape architect Tom Stille of River School Farms and Interpretive Gardens, who envisioned a bioregional theme. Now, 23,400 square feet of ripped out lawn later, one area of the L-shaped garden features a Sierra Nevada region with incense cedar, white fir and Jeffrey pine lining the hillside. A desert region at the hottest spot features drought-tolerant plants, like salvia, yarrow and lavender. Native Great Basin plants dot another patch. A riparian area features plants that grow along the Truckee River and require more water. A "food forest" grows edibles like strawberries, rhubarb and asparagus, mixed with fruit trees, and a veggie patch with hoop houses yields, during this cool season, Swiss chard, mustard greens, kale, spinach and more.

The different areas will help students draw comparisons of the water needs of various landscapes—information that could help adults contemplating a water-wise yard, as well.



Hoop houses cover part of the veggie patch—one chunk of a "bioregional" garden that replaced lawn—at Hug High.

Photo By kat kerlin

Hug High School, 2880 Sutro St.

“The main goal of the garden is really water conservation,” said Stille during the garden’s public opening. The food produced is an added benefit. Even in the cold weather, Hug’s hoop houses provided enough salad greens to serve about 300 people during a school supper last winter.

“We plant our own vegetables,” said Hug culinary student Anthony Smith, 16, serving up a parsnip nut muffin he helped cook for the garden opening.

“There’s more food here than we can use in the class,” said culinary instructor Wayne Tuma, beaming. The remaining food goes to the Northern Nevada Food Bank and Great Basin Community Food Co-op. While it may seem sensible for food grown on school grounds to be served in the school cafeteria, distributor contracts currently prohibit it.

“We could do a salad bar in the school right now, but politically, they’re not ready for it,” said Josie Luciano of Urban Roots Garden Classrooms, which has been working with the students on the garden.

In the meantime, while Reno residents tend their own gardens, Tuma, students and other volunteers will help maintain this one throughout the summer.

The garden demonstrates possibilities, not just of gardening ideas for different regions and water resources, but also for growing food in unlikely places—like an urban, uneven school plot.

“Food is so critical now,” said Stille. “With peak oil, our industrial agricultural system runs on oil. Tractors, pesticides, fertilizers all run on oil. It’s important to teach how to grow food in our urban areas.”

# 9-Year-Old's Science Fair Project Saves City Thousands of Gallons of Water

by Stephen Messenger, Porto Alegre, Brazil on 06. 5. 11



Photo: [Joe Shlabotnik / cc](#)

So often there's the sense that only with dramatic change can we bring about a more sustainable world -- but in reality, sometimes all it takes is the imagination of a child. Meet Mason Perez, a 9-year-old from Reno, Nevada, whose science fair project has helped save his community tens of thousands of gallons of water. Two years ago, when he was only seven, the gradeschooler discovered an all-too-common point of waste that had been overlooked by grown-ups there for ages. And, with just one surprisingly simple fix, Mason found a way that the city could conserve one of its most important natural resources.

According to a report from *The Reno Gazette-Journal*, Mason's ingeniously innovative idea was borne from an experience he had two years ago. One day, he was at the a local baseball field enjoying a hot dog with his mother, and afterwards he visited the park's restroom to wash up -- but the water from the faucet was so strong that it was almost too painful for his little hands to bear. That's when he stumbled upon a simple discovery: if the tap was turned down halfway, it was actually just as effective.

The youngster began to suspect something which most adults had never thought of -- that reducing water pressure could save a lot of water. With this theory in mind, and his school's science fair approaching, Mason set out to prove it.

From the *Gazette-Journal*:

He tested his theory by using a half-gallon bucket and a stop watch, measuring how much water came out within a certain amount of time when the valves were wide open and when they were turned half off.

The tests were conducted three times each at his house, his grandmother's house and a friend's house, with a resulting savings in water use ranging from almost 4 percent to 23 percent.

He also went to three businesses: Reno Aces ballpark, Scheels sporting goods store and the Coconut Bowl at Wild Waters in Sparks. His tests showed savings from 6 to 25 percent.

It is common practice for construction workers to leave valves fully open when installing plumbing -- it's important for clearing out new pipes, but evidently unnecessary to stay that way in the long-term, and wasteful too.

Mason and his mother then approached the ballpark's manager, Rick Parr, and told him about the idea of turning down the pressure. At first, Parr wasn't convinced that it would help.

"But after listening to him, I thought, 'This kid could be right.' So I went down to the bathrooms myself to check out his theory. We didn't measure it, but you could tell right away that it worked." says Parr

"You don't have to be a scientist to see that you can save water. And it didn't make any difference in how well you could wash your hands. The only difference was you weren't wasting a lot of water in the process."

Since 2009, the park has reduced the water pressure in its facilities, saving an untold amount of water and saved 20 percent off their utility bill each month. And sure enough, the idea started catching the attention of the local water authority, TMWA. There are meetings planned to determine where Mason's idea can be implemented, like in other parks, public schools, casinos, and private homes.

Ultimately, turning down the pressure on some water lines won't just be a boon for the environment, but for the other areas as well.

"You know how teachers have kind of been losing their jobs?" Mason told the *Gazette-Journal*. "If we turned down every valve at every school we have in the Washoe County School District, with all that money we can save, we can save at least one teacher's job."

Oh, and by the way, his project took the top prize at the science fair.

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## More on Kids Saving the World

[Nine-Year-Old Accidentally Discovers a New Species](#)

[6-Year-Old Who Beat Cancer Fights to Save Penguins](#)

[14-Year-Old Turns a '72 VW Beetle into an Electric Car](#)

# Hug High School takes classroom to garden



Written by  
**Lenita Powers**  
 4:46 PM, May 26, 2011

When President Barack Obama visited Reno last month, his entourage ate a salad that contained fresh vegetables grown in a garden at Hug High School.

"We used some kale and arugula that we got from Hug High School's garden in a salad nicoise," said Nancy Horn, co-owner with husband Joe of Dish Cafe & Catering, which provided meals for Obama's staff and the White House Press Corps.

"I think the garden is an amazing opportunity for the students to learn what can be grown in your own backyard," she said.

Hug High's more than 5,000-square-foot garden is part of a water conservation and relandscaping project at the school. Funded by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, it is a cooperative effort with Reno's River School Farm, the school's culinary class and Urban Roots, a nonprofit organization that promotes school gardens.

On Thursday, a celebration of the opening of Hug's garden was held at the north Reno school featuring food from the garden prepared by students in a culinary class.

The menu included pork spareribs with pear and beet puree, pinto beans with arugula, parsnip muffins, chard stuffed with brown rice and onions, and fruit kabobs with fresh mint sauce.

"The garden was put in last year, and we wanted to hold a grand opening ceremony," said chef Wayne Tuma, who teaches cooking and culinary classes at Hug.

Using fresh produce from a garden right outside their door helps students understand the role it plays in better nutrition, Tuma said.

"The other nice thing about it is the students get to see the whole cycle of how food is grown before it gets to us and that instead of eating commercially processed foods, this is the way to go," he said.

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**Water-efficient landscaping**

The vegetable garden is one portion of the re-landscaping project funded by TMWA, which has paid for more water-efficient landscaping at McQueen and Wooster high schools as part of its requirement under the Truckee River Operating Agreement to conserve water in the area.

About 23,000 square feet of grass was removed at Hug High and replaced partly by the drip-irrigated vegetable garden, said Lora Rose Richards, TMWA's administrator of conservation and community education.

"We've gotten different feedback on how much water a vegetable garden requires, so we hope this will be a test site for how to water a garden efficiently," she said.

Working with Tom Stille, owner of the River School Farm, they developed the plan for not only the garden at Hug, but also for a Great Basin plant area that has regional plants and a food forest area with fruit trees.

For the garden, recovered wood from one of TMWA's old flumes was used to build the bottom tracks for moveable plastic-covered hoop houses that can be rolled over different sections of the garden so plants can get an earlier start on the growing season.

On a tour of the garden earlier this week, Stille pointed out the garden's cool-season vegetables: green kale, collard, a variety of

bok choy, lettuce, garlic, beets, chard and spinach.

"This is micro-eco urban farming," he said. "Everything is grown organically with no pesticides."

Tomatoes, peppers and other plants already have been started in raised beds, and grape vines planted by the entrance are climbing up a wooden trellis made of recycled black locust.

"Our ultimate goal is to turn this over to the students in about three years," Stille said.

Interviews are being conducted to select a leader for a group of students who will take over planting, weeding and harvesting of the garden, but he said the school also is looking for a group of parent volunteers with gardening experience to work with them.

The garden is certified by the Nevada Department of Agriculture, which means its produce can be used in the school

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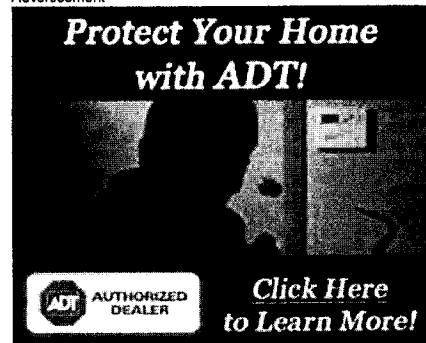
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cafeteria and classes, and also be sold to local restaurants, Stille said.

Horn's Dish Cafe is one of three local restaurants that purchase fresh vegetables grown in Hug's garden.

The Fourth Street Bistro and Bricks Restaurant also are buyers, with most of the money going to the school and some to cover the expenses the River Farm School incurs in taking care of the garden, Stille said.

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## Hug High School Students Dedicate New Garden

Posted: May 26, 2011 4:02 PM PDT

Updated: May 26, 2011 4:02 PM PDT

*Michael Wolfe*  
Channel 2 News

Hug High School dedicated its new garden Thursday which its students will use to learn about growing food and cooking.

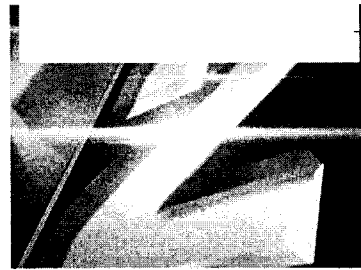
The garden was made possible by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's landscape retrofit program in cooperation with the River School, which helped install it.

Since last year, TMWA removed more than 23,000 square feet of turf and replaced it with a more water-efficient garden.

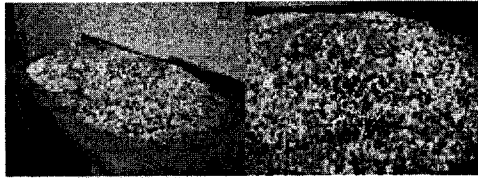
The garden has native plants and features a 5,200 square foot vegetable garden which Hug High students can use to grow a variety of delicious eats including tomatoes, lettuce and plenty of other veggies.

"What's nice is we can take the food, have kids look up recipes and we start cooking with the good that we've actually harvested ourselves," says Hug High Culinary and Foods instructor Wayne Tuma.

Teachers say the students are initially apprehensive about getting down in the dirt, but once they see the fruits of their labor they change their minds.



## RPD Prescription Drug Round-Up a Success



[Q Enlarge Image](#)

Posted: 9:38 am PDT May 26, 2011 Updated: 11:18 am PDT May 26, 2011

RENO-- As part of a national drug take back program sponsored by the US Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Administration, on April 30 and May 1, 2011, Officers of the Reno Police Department held a prescription drug round up.

The round-up of old medications was created to remove old medications from homes to eliminate the potential for abuse or dependence by anyone who can get them from medicine cabinets, including young children and teenagers. The effort is also designed to help minimize the potential for pollution of water supplies and the impact on pets and wildlife as a result of improper disposing of medications by flushing them down toilets.

The event was sponsored by Join Together Northern Nevada, the Reno Police Department, Washoe County School District, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Washoe County Department of Water Resources, the Retail Association of Northern Nevada, The Nevada Prevention Resource Center, Scolari's Food & Drug, Save-Mart, Walgreen's, the Sparks Police Department, The Washoe County Sheriff's Office, local pharmacists and others.

This event was a great success, as a result of the operation, Police Department Officials were able to collect and categorize 85,861 prescription pills (277 Lbs.), multiple over the counter medications and liquid preparations. None of the over 85,000 pills collected will have the opportunity to find their way into the hands of our community youth, nor into the water system of the Truckee Meadows.

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Location: [Hug High Basketball Court](#)

Street: **2880 Sutro Street**

City/Town: **Reno, NV**

Phone: **RSVP to Lora Rose Richards 775-834-8060**

Event Type: [open](#), [house](#)

Organized By: River School

Latest Activity: **May 19**

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## Event Description

Please join us for the garden opening at the Hug High Basketball Court to hear about the individual garden areas and the educational program. Garden tours and food prepared from the garden will also be available.

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), the River School Farm and Hug High School have partnered in an innovative program of environmental learning through creating a water-efficient garden at Hug High School. The garden, which replaces 23,000 square feet of sloped turf, is designed to be more water efficient than turf by up to 90 percent in some areas.

Please RSVP to Lora Rose Richards, telephone 775-834-8060

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## Winners: Reno Rotary helps build play area at city's family shelter

9:00 PM, May. 13, 2011|

Reno Rotary Foundation, for a \$2,000 grant to the Volunteers of America Family Shelter, and members of the Rotary Club of Reno, who helped transform the space outside of the Family Shelter into the new Reno Rotary Alley, featuring hopscotch, foursquare, basketball, life-size checkers, benches and storage bins for balls and other play equipment at the organization's Record Street facility for the homeless.

First Touchin' Trucks event benefits inclusive practices

Everyone who contributed to the first Touchin' Trucks event at the Grand Sierra Resort, which benefited Washoe County School District inclusive practices that support excellent instruction for all students, including: U.S. Air Force, Exotic DJ Services, Lakeside Towing, City of Sparks Fleet, City of Reno Fleet, NV Energy, Q&D Construction, WCSD Transportation, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, News 4, Puliz Moving Co., All Points Towing, Nevada Highway Patrol, Grand Sierra, Nevada Air National Guard, WCSD Police, SWAT, Consolidated Bomb Squad, Reno Fire Department, the Griggs, Reno Balloon Races, Regional Transportation

Commission, Bell Limousine, Craig Toole, Waste Management and REMSA.

10th annual Aly's Prom Closet helps 413 kids attend dances

All of the service providers, donors and supporters of the 10th season of Aly's Prom Closet, sponsored by Family Counseling Service, including: Shoppers Square Mall, Freeman Decorating Co., Vassar Self Storage, RGJ Media, Washoe County School District, Walmart Supercenter -- Kietzke Lane, International Academy of Style, Marinello School of Beauty, Milan Institute of Cosmetology, The Paul Mitchell Reno Academy, Macy's, Selix Formalwear, Tux Town, National Charity League -- Reno Chapter, A Salon 7, Adonna Crowley, Alpha Delta Kappa Beta Chapter, Ann Bell, Battle Born Derby Demons, Brittany DeCair, Carol & Harry Accessories, Denise Johnson, Essenza Salon, Heather Kaminsky, Jazz Salon, Jerry Sawyer and Hayley Sawyer-Weise, John Manning, Joyce E. Seig, Junior League of Reno, Ken and Myra Rye, KOLO, KRNV, KTVN, Sparks Tribune, Lesley

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Maureen Harmon, Molly Isaia, Sally Pappas, Sandra Dillon, Scott Copeland, Sherry Heavrin, Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows, Stan Goodin, Terry Murray, Vanda Nails. Aly's Prom Closet helped a record 413 students from 31 high school attend their high school proms.

Assistance League event

raises more than \$16,000

Everyone who contributed to the Assistance League of Reno Sparks' annual luncheon and silent auction, which raised more than \$16,000 for the organization's programs. A record 322 women attended the event, which was chaired by Mimi Violin for the second year, with a committee of 20 women who worked to secure donations throughout the year for the silent auction.



## Fall hearings for controversial Nevada water pipeline

12:38 PM, May. 15, 2011|

RENO, Nev. (AP) - Crucial hearings to help determine whether billions of gallons of water will be pumped out of aquifers beneath northern Nevada and Utah to fill the thirsty taps of arid Las Vegas are still months away.

But a pre-hearing last week shows the legal battle over the controversial 285-mile-long pipeline project with a price tag as high as \$3.5 billion promises to be a lengthy and contentious one.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority alone plans testimony from more than two dozen witnesses over about three weeks' time to present its case in support of winning the necessary water rights for the project — something it once had in hand but lost a year ago when the Nevada Supreme Court sent the matter back to the state water engineer for the new round of hearings beginning in September.

If the authority secures approval of all the rights it is seeking, the pipeline could end up carrying as much as 65 billion gallons of water from the north to the south on an annual basis. Daily flows would total up to 178 million gallons under that scenario —

enough to cover an area the size of nearly 500 football fields with a new foot of water each day.

That's assuming the conflicting interests in the north and south can agree on the length of a day — something the Nevada Division of Water Resources' chief hearing officer wasn't taking for granted at the preconference meeting in a mock courtroom at the National Judicial College on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno.

"You are all lawyers," Susan Joseph-Taylor said. "You are going to argue what a day means."

They did, for about 10 minutes, before agreeing that a "day" in the context of giving adequate notice on the filing of certain evidence didn't necessarily mean 24 hours. Rather, they decided that a party would serve such notice before the close of business on the previous day.

The 65 billion gallons of water -- 200,000

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400,000 households a year. However, SNWA officials believe it's more realistic to expect approval of about 120,000 acre feet. An acre foot is the amount of water it takes to cover an acre one foot deep.

SNWA's chief opponent is the Great Basin Water Network, an alliance of mostly conservationists and rural leaders that opposes tapping any of the groundwater in the north to fuel more growth in southern Nevada.

Other critics who will be represented at the fall hearings include the LDS Church, three tribes and a pair of counties each in Nevada and Utah. With the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and others also in the mix, just organizing the evidence with coherent exhibit numbers can be difficult.

Joseph-Taylor opted for a series of acronyms for each party. For example, the water authority's exhibits will be "SNWA (hash)1, SNWA(hash)2, SNWA(hash)3... etc." The Great Basin Water Network will be "GBWN." Lawyers for the LDS Church requested and received "COPB" for Corporation of Presiding Bishops.

Joseph-Taylor initially suggested Utah's Juab County and Millard counties be combined since they are being represented by the same lawyers.

"Utah will be UTAH," she said before they told her they preferred JUAB and MILL. She consented and clarified, "Utah will not be

Hank Vogler, an outspoken rancher from Ely who is a member of the Nevada Wildlife Commission, fears the pipeline would mean an end to his sheep business but doubts anyone can stop the project given the water authority's legal arsenal.

"Some of us are going to be collateral damage and be taken out by 1,000 paper cuts," Vogler said. He said his exhibits will feature the acronym NMSC — "Need-More-Sheep Company."

The parties will present their cases during hearings at the Nevada Legislature in Carson City each week day from Sept. 26 to Oct. 14, and then again from Oct. 31 to Nov. 18.

A special hearing for public comment is scheduled Oct. 7. The state water engineer's office will accept written comment through Dec. 2.



## Editorial: Action needed to stop quaggas

9:00 PM, May. 14, 2011|

The possible discovery of quagga mussels in two of Northern Nevada's most important reservoirs is reason for considerable concern.

The invasive mollusk has become Public Enemy No. 1 in waterways throughout the United States, including Lake Mead, where they were first found in 2007. From there, they migrated to Lake Havasu.

The natives of eastern Europe, and their cousins, zebra mussels, already have caused millions of dollars of damage in the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, they clog water intake pipes, foul hydroelectric operations and, particularly worrisome, voraciously eat the food that native species depend on for survival.

Officials at Lake Tahoe have battled fiercely to prevent an invasion of the alpine lake, where they could undo decades of hard work that has been done to protect its famous clarity. The mussels' favored method of transportation is on the private boats that often are moved from lake to lake. That's why boats entering Lake Tahoe have been subject to inspection and

decontamination since 2008.

Inspections also are occurring at other area lakes.

Once they enter a body of water, they multiply at an alarming rate. Scientists at a symposium in Las Vegas, on Friday said that they've produced dense colonies in Lake Mead in a two-year span -- as many as 55,000 per square meter -- that rival those in the Great Lakes region, where they've been for more than a decade.

If the discovery of the mussels at Rye Patch and Lahontan reservoirs is confirmed, it will require quick action to institute new protective measures, both to protect those reservoirs, which are popular fisheries, but also to prevent those mussels from being carried on to still more waterways.

History tells us that there is no time to waste.

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## Legal battle heating up with the Newlands Project, Pyramid Lake

MAY, 12 2011  
BY STEVE PUTERSKI  
LAHONTAN VALLEY NEWS

The legal battle for water in the Newlands Project and the Truckee Canal is on once again.

This time, though, Fernley resident Mike Lowry is leading the charge. Lowry filed a federal lawsuit in August 2010 in Reno federal court to protect water transfers to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

According to Lowry, Sen. Harry Reid has reapportioned about \$14 million to the tribe so the tribe can purchase water rights throughout the project. The city of Fernley was given about \$4 million according to Truckee-Carson Irrigation District Project Manager Rusty Jardine at Monday's monthly meeting.

Great Basin Land and Water (GBLW), Lowry said, has been trying to secure the water for the tribe. Lowry added it's a violation of the laws to govern the water according to the Orr Ditch Decree. Lowry said GBLW has put an offer on five foreclosed homes in Fernley with an estimated 1,100 acre/feet of water rights.

According to the GBLW's website, it has acquired more than 5,000 a/f of water rights along the river and in Truckee Division of TCID. Among those entities benefiting are the cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

A risk analysis study by Reid has been initiated, Lowry said, and part of the study is to analyze a 0 cubic feet per second flow in the Truckee Canal. Lowry said Reid and the tribe want to shut down the canal.

"Their goal is to totally eliminate Truckee River water going into the project," Lowry said. "There's millions and millions of dollars for retiring these Truckee River water rights, which is just paying us off and being done with it. Our community won't be worth 2 cents."

Lowry added the tribe wants all the water in the project to restore Pyramid Lake to its original levels prior to the construction of the Truckee Canal in the early 1900s.

"Those monies had been ascribed out of that appropriations bill, which was defeated," Jardine said. "I'm not sure, actually, where these monies come from."

Lowry has worked closely with Jardine, city of Fallon Attorney Mike Mackedon and TCID attorney Michael Van Zandt about the issues with the appropriation of the money to the tribe.

He said he is looking at taking action to start an investigation into the acts of Reid and the tribe concerning the reapportion of the money.

"I have had some really good legal minds look at it," Lowry said. "It's clearly an act of misappropriating public funds. There's case law – U.S. Supreme Court – you cannot remove and reallocate project water appropriated by congress."

Lowry said the legal battles originated in 1973 when the tribe sued to modify the Orr Ditch Decree. The tribe's changes to the decree were to eliminate project water and reallocate it to Pyramid Lake. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the tribe.

“They want that lake like it was back in the 1800s,” Lowry said. “What’s silly about it, is if they get the water that high, their homes would be gone.”

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